

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02118 091130Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 ORM-02 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

/077 W

----- 054706

O 091040Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8913

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2118

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. AKKAR SITUATION REMAINS TENSE BUT QUIET. THERE WAS A BIT OF SHOOTING IN TRIPOLI/ZAGHORTA AREAS YESTERDAY. MAIN SECURITY PROBLEM BECAME MOVEMENT OF LT. KHATIB'S FORCES TO TOWN OF ARNOUN NEAR NABATIYE IN THE SOUTH, THE SITE OF BATTERY WHICH WE REPORTED YESTERDAY HAD DESERTED TO KHATIB'S FORCES. KHATIB HAS INSTALLED HIMSELF WITH PROBABLY NOT MORE THAN A FEW HUNDRED OF HIS OWN MEN BUT HE WAS VISITED BY LONG SERIES OF LEFT WING LEADERS (COMMUNIST HAWI, NASSERIST QULAYLAT AND OTHERS) WHE WERE ON THEIR WAY TO DAMASCUS YESTERDAY. QULAYLAT REPORTEDLY STATYED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02118 091130Z

BEHIND TO DISCUSS MATTERS FURTHER WITH KHATIB. JUMBLATT

DID NOT GO TO DAMASCUS YESTERDAY AS ANNOUNCED BUT HE IS STILL EXPECTED TO GO TODAY OR TOMORROW. HE HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR KHATIB (WHO ALSO ENJOYS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF LIBYANS AND PLO-FATAH).

2. SPECIAL CABINET MEETING ON SITUATION IN THE SOUTH YESTERDAY WAS ATTENDED BY GROUP OF LEBANESE ARMY OFFICER. DISCUSSION WAS HEATED, WITH KARAME REPORTEDLY HOLDING OUT FOR EXPANDED AMNESTY TO KHATIB FORCES WHICH CHAMOUN (AND PRESUMABLY FRANGIE) JUST AS STRONGLY OPPOSED. CHAMOUN WALKED OUT AN HOUR AND A HALF BEFORE MEETING ENDED. FRANGIE MADE STATEMENT INDICATING SITUATION WAS VERY SERIOUS. ASSUMPTION GENERALLY BEING MADE THAT PROBLEM HAS TACITLY OR EXPLICITLY BEEN LEFT TO SYRIANS. ARMY HIGHER COMMAND (WHICH IS COMPLETELY DEMORALIZED) WAS ALSO REPORTEDLY ENJOINED TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO PREVENT FURTHER DESERTIONS.

3. WHILE KHATIB'S FORCES HAVE POTENTIAL AS AN ALTERNATE LEBANESE ARMY AS LONG AS SUPPORTED BY JUMBLATT AND TACITLY AT LEAST NOT OPPOSED BY KARAME, HIS LOGISTICAL POSITION WOULD BECOME UNTENABLE SHOULD PALESTINIANS CEASE TO SUPPORT HIM, GIVEN KNOWN SYRIAN RESERVATIONS ABOUT HIM. SHOULD HIS FOUR ARTILLERY PIECES BEGIN TO SHELL ISRAEL IN EARNEST, WE SUPPOSE ISRAELIS WOULD TRY TO TAKE THEM OUT BY AIRCRAFT STRIKE OR OTHERWISE. HE IS QUITE A NUMBER OF KILOMETERS BACK FROM THE FRONTIER, HOWEVER, AND ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE LITANI RIVER.

4. WHILE THERE WAS SOME MORE LOOTING YESTERDAY AND LAST NIGHT IN BEIRUT, SITUATION OTHERWISE PRETTY CALM. ARMY/PLA PATROLS MORE IN EVIDENCE IN WESTERN PART OF THE CITY AND DAYTIME TRAFFIC HAS BEEN PRETTYHEAVY SINCE YESTERDAY. ASSOCIATION OF SOUK OWNERS HAS, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO REOPEN SOUKS UNTIL GIVEN BETTER GUARANTEES OF SECURITY.

5. WE HAVEJUST LEARNED THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED PALESTINIANS OF PFLP, PDFLP AND FATAH HAVE ALSO GONE TO ARNOUN AREA, AND THAT AN ATTEMPTED MUTINY OF SIDON ARMY GARRISON WAS PUT DOWN YESTERDAY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02118 091130Z

LAMBRAKIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT02118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760088-0949
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760382/aaaactxd.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 0900 LEBANON REPORT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006